

(Tony Trenkle); Office of Financial Management (Deborah Taylor); Office of General Counsel (Janice Hoffman); Office of Legislation; Office of Research, Development and Information (Tim Love).

THE WHITE HOUSE

Nancy-Ann DeParle, Mike Hash.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators vote tonight from their desks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that we start the vote 5 minutes early.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DODD). Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 175, H.R. 3590.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jack Reed, Edward E. Kaufman, Jeff Merkley, Roland W. Burris, Daniel K. Akaka, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bill Nelson, Mark Udall, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher J. Dodd, Patty Murray.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3590, the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act of 2009, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 353 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Akaka	Cardin	Hagan
Baucus	Carper	Harkin
Bayh	Casey	Inouye
Begich	Conrad	Johnson
Bennet	Dodd	Kaufman
Bingaman	Dorgan	Kerry
Boxer	Durbin	Kirk
Brown	Feingold	Klobuchar
Burris	Feinstein	Kohl
Byrd	Franken	Landrieu
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Lautenberg

Leahy
Levin
Lieberman
Lincoln
McCaskill
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murray

Nelson (NE)
Nelson (FL)
Pryor
Reed
Reid
Rockefeller
Sanders
Schumer
Shaheen

Specter
Stabenow
Tester
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Warner
Webb
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—39

Alexander
Barrasso
Bennett
Bond
Brownback
Bunning
Burr
Chambliss
Coburn
Cochran
Collins
Corker
Cornyn

Crapo
DeMint
Ensign
Enzi
Graham
Grassley
Gregg
Hatch
Hutchison
Inhofe
Isakson
Johanns
Kyl

LeMieux
Lugar
McCain
McConnell
Murkowski
Risch
Roberts
Sessions
Shelby
Snowe
Thune
Vitter
Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Voinovich

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 39. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

(Disturbance in the galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Expressions of approval are not allowed.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back, and the motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3590) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time home buyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2786

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I call up my amendment that is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN, proposes an amendment numbered 2786.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of Thursday, November 19, 2009, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we just did one of the most important things I have ever done in my professional life, and I join my colleagues in noting that. We have taken a major step in doing several things today—in providing health insurance to tens of millions of Americans who don't have insurance, in building consumer protections around 80 percent of Americans who are insured so people will no longer be disqualified from preexisting conditions, no more discrimination based on gender.

As the Presiding Officer knows from his work in Minnesota, women pay significantly higher health insurance premiums than men on average. Those days are behind us. There will no longer be lifetime caps so if somebody gets sick and their cost of treatment—from physician care, from hospital visits—so high, the insurance company chooses to do what they call rescission, cutting their insurance coverage off, those days are behind us, once we move forward with this bill.

Tonight is the first step. Even though none of my Republican colleagues, not 1 of the 39 who voted, not 1 of them wanted to proceed with the debate, clearly the country wanted us to move forward. Now everybody has a fair shot. If they don't like the public option, they can try to get rid of it. If they don't like the way we are paying for it, they can try to change it. If they don't like what we have done with biologics, those opportunities are in front of us now for the next 2 or 3 weeks.

I have come to the Senate floor leading up to this debate, since July, sharing letters from people in my State who have a few things in common. Almost every single letter I get comes from somebody who a year or two ago was pretty satisfied with their health insurance. Then maybe they had a baby with a preexisting condition or they lost their insurance or they owned a small business and 1 person out of 50 employees got cancer and their premiums spiked so high, the insurance was either terminated by the company or it was so expensive they couldn't afford it. Someone got so sick and the costs were so high, the insurance cut them off. In almost every one of these letters, people were generally satisfied with their insurance.

I get letters from a lot of people in their early sixties, people from Springfield to Troy to Zaynesville. These people in their early sixties who have lost